(c) whether the Home Ministries of the two countries would share intelligence under the new agreement which also provides for exchange of equipments; and

(d) if so, by when the MoU is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) During the visit of His Excellency Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, to India from 3-5 December, 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism. This MoU was signed on 4 December, 2002. The MoU provides for cooperation between the two countries on exchange of information on terrorist groups and about possible terrorist acts, and also for cooperation directed towards prevention and investigation of terrorist acts. The two countries shall also cooperate and assist each other: i) in studying the causes, substance, structure, dynamics and manifestations of terrorism; ii) in exchanging relevant scientific and training materials, experts and trainees; iii) in organizing joint working meetings, workshops and seminars; iv) in identifying, preventing and suppressing the funding of persons and organizations involved in terrorist activities and v) in exercising control over the organizations involved in money laundering for the purposes of financing terrorism. Under this MoU, the two countries will set up a Working Group on Combating International Terrorism. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation shall be the nodal Ministries for this Working Group. The Working Group will also include representatives of other concerned Ministries and agencies of the two countries.

**Project of Indian views by embassies**

3040. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Embassies abroad are not adequate to project Indian stand on various issues, such as foreign policy, Kashmir, terrorism and nuclear disarmament;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to project our stand effectively; and

(c) the expenses involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) It has been the consistent endeavour of the Ministry of External Affairs to adequately equip all Indian missions abroad with up-to-date information and publicity materials so that they can project a positive image of the country effectively highlighting our stand on various issues of importance to the international community. The missions, in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs, work to well-defined action plans that encompass, *inter-alia*, close contracts with opinion-makers, dissemination of materials and information, maintenance of websites, talks and seminars, press briefings and so on. Adequate budget for publicity are provided to the missions.

**Sending abroad on fake visas**

†3041. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of culprits arrested this year for their involvement in sending persons abroad on fake visas and what action has been taken against them;

(b) the plan formulated by Government to prevent this offence; and

(c) what are the reasons that active gangs are still out of clutches and the incidents of fake visas come to light every other day and people are being cheated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Since this is a police matter, the information is being sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the table of the House when made available by that Ministry.

**Declaration of oil field services as public utility services**

3042. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.